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COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Minority Groups in Kweichow Province

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1. In Kweichow there are four million non-Chinese among the population who were not well treated under the Nationalist government and who have had a unique experience under the Chinese Communists. These people are concentrated into numerous tribes but the principle tribes are Chung-Chia (仲家), Miao and Lolo.
2. The Chung-Chia is the largest minority group in Kweichow province numbering about two million and located in the southern part of the province. In language they are extremely similar to the Siamese. Up until the time the Chinese Communists entered Kweichow in November 1949 these people were tenant farmers owning no land themselves. [redacted] the Chinese Communist Government has promised these people an autonomous region and has encouraged them to correspond with like-speaking people in Thailand.
3. Students from the Chung Chia tribe rapidly formed an attachment to Thailand after the Chinese Communists took control of education. The students often came to me with questions about Thailand and about their "relatives" there.
4. The second largest minority is the Miao tribe numbering about 1 1/2 million and concentrated in the southeastern section of Kweichow province. Some members of the tribe were located in the city of Weining in the western part of the province and there are considerable numbers in Yunnan and Kwangsi provinces. These people have a separate language and are considered more backward than the Chung-Chia. There are many sub-divisions

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of this tribe. Some members of the Miao tribe came to Kweichow University but were extremely hesitant in admitting their Miao origin. When the Chinese Communists came to Kweichow, they were extremely courteous to the Miao and people began admitting their Miao origin. The flattery of this tribe consisted of calling them brothers to the Chinese and many representatives of this tribe were taken to Peking for a brief visit. The Miao people are open, sincere and honest and it was extremely difficult for them to accept the Chinese Communist methods of accusing landlords of oppression during the land reform movement.

5. Although the Miao tribe had no script of their own, they soon adopted a Burmese script used by Miao people in Yunnan. The Chinese Communists were extremely interested in this Burmese script which was taught in the British and Methodist schools in Szechwan province. [] it is called the Pollard script. [] the Miao were spreading this script to other tribes and towns in Kweichow. 50X1-HUM
6. The third largest tribe, the Lolo, are a Tibetan tribe who were associated with the tribal people of the Ta Liang Shan region of Sikang province. The members of this tribe were primarily landlords and treated the Miao people very badly before the Chinese Communist troops came. [] the former governor of Yunnan was a member of the Lolo. 50X1-HUM
7. In general, [] none of these tribal people lived in the northwestern part of Kweichow because they had been removed from that area by the Chinese Nationalist Government. The Nationalists had attempted to enforce Chinese dress and customs on these tribal people. [] Nationalist soldiers throwing dirt on the beautiful native costumes of these people in an attempt to enforce Chinese dress. The Chinese Communists adapted a very friendly attitude toward these tribal people referring to them as minorities or small numbered people in contrast to the Nationalist term of frontier people. 50X1-HUM
8. At first, the Chinese Communists were most well behaved and solicitous of the population. [] The most convincing argument of the Chinese Communists for these tribes was the promise of schools and hospitals and the distribution of pens and paper. [] the first signs of the true motives of the Chinese Communists came with the advent of three cultural delegations from Peking. These groups of professors, doctors and actors remained about six months in Kweichow and their so-called cultural programs soon deteriorated into political propaganda. Often some of the tribes people had to travel a day's journey to these meetings carrying with them their food and bedclothes. 50X1-HUM
9. Although most discontent among the population resulted from the land reform program, [] some resistance stemmed from other factors. In particular [] the local people, who are fairly calm, resented the fact that most police officers were introduced from Hunan. The population referred to them as the men with the fierce faces. 50X1-HUM
10. [] the Russian language was introduced into the Middle School, but English was also taught. [] most of the students were enthusiastic about the amount of Russian they had learned, but regretted that there were no advanced classes and their training thus far was inadequate for conversation. 50X1-HUM

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